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Message Text

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67
ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 IO-14 DRC-01 /112 W
---------- 111578
R 151440Z FEB 74
FM AMCEMBASSY CAPE TOWN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3758
INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL DURBAN
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT, SF
SUBJECT: UP'S TROUBLES MULTIPLY

REF: CAPE TOWN 0076

1. UNITED PARTY, STILL SUFFERING FROM ITS INTERNAL WRANGLING, FACES YET ANOTHER WEEKEND OF CRISIS. IN CAPE PROVINCE, PARTY LEADERSHIP IS CONFRONTED WITH POSSIBLE DONNYBROOK AFTER ISSUING DECISION THAT CONSERVATIVE MPC JAC DE VILLIERS WILL BE CANDIDATE IN WYNBERG CONSTITUENCY INSTEAD OF MORE LIBERAL KOBUS VAN EEDEN, DESPITE UP DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE'S UNANIMOUS ENDORSEMENT OF VAN EEDEN. AS A RESULT, MANY UP SUPPORTERS IN WYNBERG REPORTEDLY ARE ASKING MRS. CATHERINE TAYLOR, UP INCUMBENT MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR WYNBERG WHO PLANNED TO RETIRE FROM POLITICS, TO STAND AS AN INDEPENDENT.

2. MEANWHILE, UP LEADER SIR DE VILLIERS GRAAFF IS IN JOHANNESBURG FOR MEETING WITH TRANSVAAL PARTY OFFICIALS TO DECIDE FATE OF NIC OLIVIER, A VERLIQTE PROFESSOR FROM STELLENBOSCH UNIVERSITY WHOM TRANSVAAL UP LIBERALS WANT TO
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RUN IN EDENVALE CONSTITUENCY. DECISION IN FAVOR OF OLIVIER

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WOULD MEAN THAT A SITTING MP, GEORGE OLIVER, WHO FAVORED
BY PARTY CONSERVATIVES, WOULD BE LEFT WITHOUT A CONSTITUENCY.

3. DECISION AGAINST OLIVIER, ON OTHERHAND, COULD PUT
TRANSVAAL UP LEADER HARRY SCHWARZ, WHO HAS BACKED HIS
CANDIDACY, IN DIFFICULT, PERHAPS UNTENABLE POSITION. JAPIE
BASSON, UUP MP FOR BEZUIDENHOUT, SAYS THAT, DEPENDING ON
HOW DECISION GOES, IT ENTIRELY POSSIBLE SCHWARZ COULD
RESIGN.

3. COMMENT: REGARDLESS OF WHAT DECISIONS ARE MADE IN
NEXT FEW DAYS, UP CAN ONLY MANAGE TO SINK FURTHER INTO
MORASS OF ITS OWN MAKING AND REDUCE ITS PROSPECTS FOR
VICTORIES IN MARGINAL CONSTITUENCIES.
SMITH

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